

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00393 311613Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 IO-13 /095 W
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6140
INFO AMEMBSSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 957
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0393

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAG: PEPR, BH, GY
SUBJECT: PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT BY COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN PRIME
 MINISTERS ON BELIZE

1. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRED WILLS CALLED ME IN LATE
ON JANUARY 30 TO INFORM ME THAT COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN PRIME
MINISTERS WERE ATTEMPTING TO COORDINATE A JOINT STATEMENT ON
BELIZE. DRAFT HAD BEEN PREPARED BY PRIME MINISTER TOM ADAMS
OF BARBADOS AND WAS BEING CIRCULATED TO THE OTHER COMMONWEALTH
CARIBBEAN PRIME MINISTERS FOR COMMENT AND CLEARANCE. TEXT
OF PROPOSED STATEMENT, AS CLEARED BY GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA,
IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.

2. WILLS SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THE JOINT STATEMENT TO BE
ISSUED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE OPINED THAT PRIME
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 00393 311613Z

MINISTER WILLIAMS AND PRIME MINISTER MANLEY MAY HAVE
CERTAIN NIT-PICKS REGARDING THE TEXT BUT HE PREDICTED
THAT IT WOULD BE PUBLISHED ESSENTIALLY IN THE FORM PRE-
PARED BY ADAMS.

3 WILLS SAID HIS REASON FOR CALLING ME IN WAS TO
INDICATE TO THE USG THAT THERE WERE THOSE IN THE

COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN WHO CONTINUED TO FEEL THAT WASHINGTON HAD NOT PRESSED GUATEMALA HARD ENOUGH IN AN EFFORT TO GET THAT GOVERNMENT TO STAND DOWN FROM ITS DEMANDS FOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO BELIZE'S INDEPENDENCE. GUYANA'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN THIS WHOLE AFFAIR, WILLS ADMITTED, IS BASED ON ITS OWN CONCERN OVER THE PRECEDENT OF TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO A LATIN STATE. NO MATTER HOW IT IS PRESENTED GUYANA SEES THIS AS POTENTIALLY DAMAGING IN TERMS OF ITS OWN UNRESOLVED TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH VENEZUELA. WILLS PREDICTED THAT THE USG MIGHT COME IN FOR CRITICISM IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF A "FORCED" BELIZE SOLUTION EITHER WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OR AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

4. I TOLD WILLS THAT I WAS PERSONALLY UNINFORMED AS TO ANY DISCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN WASHINGTON, LONDON, GUATEMALA OR BELIZE ON THIS MATTER. I DID SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN GROUP MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE AN EXAGGERATED NOTION OF JUST HOW MUCH IF ANY INFLUENCE THE USG COULD BRING TO BEAR ON GUATEMALA ON THIS MATTER. IN ESSENCE, I ADDED, IT REMAINED A MATTER FOR RESOLUTION BETWEEN LONDON, THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE AND GUATEMALA. SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY WILLS ACCEPTED WHAT I HAD TO SAY AND ADMITTED THAT IN THE END THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN WOULD BE OBLIGED TO GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GEORGE 00393 311613Z

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE AND ITS PEOPLE AGREED TO. HE REFERRED ONCE AGAIN, HOWEVER, TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA'S GREAT CONCERN THAT AN INDEPENDENCE FORMULA FOR BELIZE INVOLVING THE CESSION OF TERRITORY TO GUATEMALA COULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR WHATEVER EVENTUAL TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT MIGHT BE ARRIVED AT BETWEEN GUYANA AND VENEZUELA.
BURKE

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NNN

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